

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
ACDA-12 MCT-01 HA-05 /122 W
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O 212156Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0169
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01012

LUSAKA PASS AMB YOUNG

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, XF

SUBJECT: STATE OF PLAY ON CREATION OF UN FORCE IN
LEBANON

1. SUMMARY: LATE MORNING ON MARCH 21 MISOFF MET WITH URQUHART AND JONAH ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON (UNIFIL). POINTS DISCUSSED INCLUDED CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS, AVAILABILITY AND DEPLOYMENT OF UN TROOP CONTINGENTS, AND POSSIBILITY OF ARAB DETERRENT FORCE (ADF) MOVING TO LITANI RIVER. THE SECRETARY-GENERAL HAS CALLED FOR SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS AT 1700 ON MARCH 21 IN ORDER TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE THE COMPOSITION OF UNIFIL. END SUMMARY.

2. POLCOUNS MET BRIAN URQUHART AND JAMES JONAH OF SECRETARIAT LATE MORNING ON MARCH 21 IN ORDER TO DISCUSS CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON SECURING CEASEFIRE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND THE INTRODUCTION OF UNIFIL INTO THE AREA. (JONAH WILL BE FLYING TO BEIRUT THIS EVENING.) URQUHART DID NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE REALISTIC TO TRY TO OBTAIN FROM THE PLO A PUBLIC STATEMENT AGREEING TO A CEASEFIRE; HE THOUGHT IT MORE REALISTIC TO TRY TO EXTRACT PRIVATE ASSURANCES FROM THE PLO THAT IT WOULD STOP FIGHTING. URQUHART NOTED THAT IN THE PAST PRIVATE ASSURANCES FROM THE PLO HAD BEEN HONORED. URQUHART SAID THAT THE SYG WILL TALK TODAY WITH UN PLO REP TERZI ABOUT STOPPING THE FIGHTING.
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3. URQUHART NOTED THAT ISRAELI AMB HERZOG HAD CALLED TO SAY THAT ISRAEL HAD AGREED TO PERMIT UN OBSERVERS TO MOVE FREELY IN THE AREA AND THAT ISRAEL WAS PARTICULARLY ANXIOUS THAT UN OBSERVERS BE PLACED AT THE 5 BRIDGES SPANNING THE LITANI RIVER. URQUHART SAID THAT HE HAD AGREED TO ORDER UNTSO OBSERVERS IN BEIRUT TO THE LITANI AREA, THOUGH HE STRESSED THAT THESE PERSONNEL COULD ONLY "OBSERVE."

4. ON TROOP CONTRIBUTIONS, URQUHART SAID NORWAY, FRANCE AND NEPAL HAD MADE POSITIVE RESPONSES TO THE UN'S REQUESTS. IRAN HAD AGREED TO MAKE AVAILABLE A CONTINGENT CURRENTLY STATIONED WITH UNDOF ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. URQUHART EXPRESSED EXASPERATION WITH THE AUSTRIANS AND SWEDES, WHO "KEEP ASKING FURTHER QUESTIONS." URQUHART HAD WRITTEN OFF PARTICIPATION BY A REINFORCED AUSTRIAN COMPANY FROM UNDOF AND WAS APPROACHING THAT POINT REGARDING A REINFORCED SWEDISH COMPANY FROM UNEF. IN RESPONSE TO OUR INQUIRY, JONAH SAID THE UN HAD NOT ASKED IRELAND TO PROVIDE TROOPS, FOR THE FRENCH OFFER HAD SEEMED TO MAKE IRISH TROOPS UNNECESSARY (AT LEAST FOR NOW), AND AN IRISH

CONTINGENT WOULD HAVE MADE UNIFIL'S COMPOSITION TOO EUROPEAN. JONAH ALSO NOTED THAT THE IRISH HAVE A REPUTATION FOR NOT COMING FULLY EQUIPPED.

5. URQUHART NOTED THAT THE IRANIAN CONTINGENT FROM UNDOF COULD BE IN POSITION WITHIN 12 HOURS AND THAT THE FRENCH COULD BE IN POSITION IN 24 HOURS. JONAH EXPECTED THE FRENCH AND THE NORWEGIANS BOTH TO COME FULLY EQUIPPED. (MISOFF LEARNED FROM GEORGE LANSKY OF UNSEC THAT THE FRENCH COULD HAVE 400 TROOPS IN THE AREA WITHIN 24 HOURS AND AN ADDITIONAL 200 IN THE AREA WITHIN 48 HOURS. THE FRENCH CONTINGENT WOULD HAVE ITS OWN HELICOPTERS, AND THE FRENCH WOULD POSSIBLY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01012

LUSAKA PASS AMB YOUNG

AIRLIFT FROM FRANCE. NORWAY IS ALSO CONSIDERING PROVIDING HELICOPTERS AND PERHAPS ITS OWN AIRLIFT. THE UN HAS ASKED THE UK TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL.)

6. THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL HOLD INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AT 1700 ON MARCH 21 TO HEAR SYG'S REPORT ON PROJECTED COMPOSITION, URQUHART SAID. HE FELT THAT THE US SHOULD NOT RPT NOT APPROACH THE SOVIETS ON THE QUESTION OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IN UNIFIL. NEITHER UN NOR US KNEW WHAT THE SOVIET ATTITUDE WOULD BE ON THE FORCE'S COMPOSITION, BUT ALL AT THE MEETING DOUBTED THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD WANT TO BLOC PARTICIPATION OF ANY CONTINGENT.

7. WHEN MISOFF NOTED THE US DESIRE THAT THE ADF PROCEED SOUTH TO THE LITANI, URQUHART AND JONAH EXPRESSED THEIR BELIEF THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE POLITICALLY DANGEROUS, FOR IT WOULD BE SEEN AS AN ATTEMPT TO CLAMP DOWN ON THE PLO. URQUHART THOUGHT RATHER THAT THE LEBANESE MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE BORDER ARRANGEMENTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. (IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH LEBANESE AMB TUENI AS TUENI WAS GOING TO AN APPOINTMENT WITH URQUHART, MISOFF AND AMB LEONARD MENTIONED TO TUENI THAT URQUHART HAD BEEN SKEPTICAL ABOUT HAVING THE ADF MOVE TO THE LITANI BECAUSE SUCH A MOVE WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DIRECTED AGAINST THE PLO. TUENI'S RESPONSE WAS: "SO WHAT?")

8. MISOFF NOTED THE US CONCERN OVER THE POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF IRAQI FORCES IN THE AREA, NOTABLY IN NABATIYAH. JONAH SAID THAT THE UN HAD NO HARD INFO ON

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DUCTION OF IRAQI FORCES IN THE AREA, NOTABLY IN NABATIYAH. JONAH SAID THAT THE UN HAD NO HARD INFO ON

THE IRAQI PRESENCE IN NABATIYAH, BUT HE ASSUMED THAT
THE TRUCK CONVOY WAS SIMPLY A LOGISTICS AND AMMUNITION
RESUPPLY OPERATION.

9. URQUHART VOICED THE OPINION THAT BEHIND-THE-SCENES
MANEUVERINGS IN NEW YORK SHOULD BE HANDLED AMONG A
MANAGEABLE NUMBER. HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A BAD IDEA,
FOR EXAMPLE, TO BRING KUWAITI AMB BISHARA INTO THE
FRAY, FOR BISHARA TENDS TO RAISE "COMPLICATIONS."
LEONARD

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PORG, MARR, XF, UNSC
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